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and the Programme Budget
Thirty-ninth session
Geneva, 16–20 September 2002
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with rule 63 of the rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board, the Working Party shall elect its own officers. In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the Chairperson at its thirty-ninth session shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Asia), and the Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur a representative of one of the States members in List D.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Working Party was approved on 21 September 2001 at its thirty-eighth session. At its second resumed thirty-eighth session, the Working Party agreed to include the issue of financing of experts as an item on the agenda for its thirty-ninth session. A note on the organization of work of the session will be circulated at the opening of the meeting.

Item 3 - Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing

(a) Overall review

3. For its consideration of this item, the Working Party will have before it two reports:

(i) The "Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD" (TD/B/49/4-TD/B/WP/151) dealing with activities undertaken in 2001, which is being submitted both to the Trade and Development Board at its forty-ninth session and to the Working Party at its current session. This document provides information on the general context in which UNCTAD technical cooperation takes place and the main developments that occurred in 2001. In particular it focuses on issues such as capacity building, partnership with other organisations, evolution in overall development aid strategy, supply and demand functions, and allocation of resources. The report also provides an overview of activities carried out in 2001 with particular reference to trends in delivery and mobilization of resources. It reviews selected UNCTAD technical cooperation programmes such as JITAP, the Integrated Framework and the Post-Doha Programme. It finally includes information on the evaluation of technical cooperation programmes.

Annex I to the above document – "Review of activities undertaken in 2001" (TD/B/49/4/Add.1-TD/B/WP/151/Add.1) – provides a programme-by-programme review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2001 under different programmes and projects. It contains information on the background to activities and their impact and results.

Annex II to the above document – "Statistical tables" (TD/B/49/4/Add.2-TD/B/WP/151/Add.2) – provides data on financial contributions, project expenditures and

distribution of activities among different regions and programmes. It also provides a list of projects under implementation in 2001.

(ii) The "Annual indicative technical cooperation plan for 2003" (TD/B/49/5/-TD/B/WP/152. This document is submitted to the Working Party pursuant to paragraph 164 (vi) of the Bangkok Plan of Action (TD/390). It contains a list of ongoing technical cooperation projects that are expected to continue in 2003, as well as new projects proposed as a result of specific requests from beneficiaries or with a view to implementing the mandate of UNCTAD X and the Third UN Conference on LDCs, as well as mandates given to UNCTAD by the General Assembly.

Item 4 - Evaluation of technical cooperation activities

(a) Evaluation of capacity-building activities

4. In the context of its annual consideration of an in-depth evaluation of a technical cooperation programme, the Working Party, at its thirty-eighth session held in September 2001, decided "to consider at the September 2002 session of the Working Party a thematic evaluation of capacity building activities of UNCTAD drawing upon, *inter alia*, the in-depth evaluations undertaken so far." The evaluation report was prepared by an independent evaluation team composed of a professional evaluator with extensive experience in this area, complemented by two additional members who were familiar with UNCTAD programmes and their planning and assessment procedures and who were constantly involved in the work of UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies. The latter were intended to bring into the evaluation process the perspective of both the beneficiary and the donor communities. The evaluation report is contained in document TD/B/WP/155.

(b) Follow-up action to the in-depth evaluation of the TRAINMAR Programme

5. After considering the evaluation of the TRAINMAR Programme at its thirty-eighth session held in September 2001, the Working Party requested "the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report on implementation at the session of the Working Party in September 2002 dealing with technical cooperation." The relevant report by the secretariat is contained in document TD/B/WP/153.

(c) Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations in the evaluation of EMPRETEC

6. At its thirty-eighth session in 2001, the Working Party reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the evaluation of the EMPRETEC Programme conducted in 2000, and requested "the secretariat to present a final report on the consolidating phase for the information of the Working Party at its session in September 2002 dealing with technical cooperation." The relevant report prepared by the secretariat is contained in document TD/B/WP/156.

(d) Progress report on the implementation of the Trade Point Strategy

7. At its thirty-fourth session in 1999, the Working Party approved a three-year Trade Point Programme Strategy (TD/B/WP/120). At UNCTAD X in 2000, it was decided that "UNCTAD shall fully implement the Trade Point Programme strategy, as proposed by the secretariat in document TD/B/WP/120, including the transfer of the electronic trading opportunities system to a non-profit entity as soon as possible" (Bangkok Plan of Action, paragraph 158). At its thirty-sixth and thirty-eighth sessions in 2000 and 2001 respectively, the Working Party reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the strategy and, at the thirty-eighth session, requested "the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to submit to the September 2002 session of the Working Party a report on the implementation of the strategy." The relevant report prepared by the secretariat is contained in document TD/B/WP/154.

Item 5 - Financing the participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UNCTAD's expert meetings

8. Paragraph 15 of the guidelines for the functioning of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery (TD/B(S-XIX)/4, Part II), adopted in Bangkok at the nineteenth special session of the Board on the Mid-term Review, states that "the participation of experts from developing countries in UNCTAD expert meetings will be enhanced through the provision of predictable financial resources". In paragraph 1 of the annex to the guidelines, members "agreed to find, by the end of 2002, a long-term solution for predictable financing of the participation of experts in intergovernmental expert meetings". At its second resumed thirty-eighth session, the Working Party decided to continue consultations on the financing of experts in order to find a long-term solution by the end of 2002 and decided to include this issue as an item on the agenda of its thirty-ninth session.

Item 6 - Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Working Party

9. The secretariat will submit, in course of the session, a draft provisional agenda for the next session of the Working Party.

Item 7 - Other business

Item 8 - Adoption of the report of the Working Party to the Trade and Development Board

10. The final report will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board.